Brattleboro Citizens Police Communications Committee
Minutes of Regular Meeting August 24, 2020

Present: Leesette Bengar, Gary Stroud, Bruce Sweeter, Jason Schmotzer, Captain Carrignan

Missing: Karen Tyler

Call to Order: Leesette Bengar called the meeting to at 17:32 Quorum Present

Review and Approval of Minute: July minutes were reviewed. Moved to approve by Leesette Bengar and Gary Stroud seconded. All voted in favor.

Meeting Discussions:

- Tabled the discussion of the body cam footage until next month.

- New complaint from Lashaunda Alley-Perry complaint was read in regard to Officers Penniman and Lockerby. The complaint was that the Officers never spoke with the caller/complainant. This complaint was investigated by the police department and the outcome was satisfactory to the party involved. Letter sent to complainant. Complaint is closed.

- New complaint from Matthew Levy complaint was read in regard to the handling of his wife and daughter’s disappearances and the ensuing investigation. The complaints were investigated by the police department and it was found that they were within their purview to withhold the information due to other legal issues. Letter was sent to the complainant. Complaint is closed.

- Open complaint from Jeffery Rivard has been resolved by BPD. In Complaint 1, it is determined that it is not sustained as there is no record of a complaint being filed about harassment. Body Cam footage is no longer available for that time. Advised Mr. Rivard to call or come to the department if he felt it still needed to be investigated. In Complaint 2, it is determined to be justified under the circumstances. In Complaint
3, the police supervisor, Windham State’s Attorney, and a judge all found probably cause for his arrest. That complaint is exonerated. In complaint 4, the determination is exonerated as the complainant stated he was satisfied at the time. There was an administrative error found during the investigation and steps were taken to correct this mistake. Letter was sent to complainant. This complaint will stay open to next meeting to give complainant a chance to respond since letter was mailed today.

- Open complaint against ACO Barrows has been resolved by BPD. The police department then did an internal investigation and there was insufficient evidence to prove or refute the violations happened. During the investigation, other violations by ACO Barrows were discovered and the Chief has taken steps to reduce the likelihood of these occurring again. Letter sent to complainant. Complaint is closed.

- Leesette would like to have a select board member or all of them to attend our next meeting to discuss the new safety committee and if we are still being considered for input and where do we fit in. Email will be sent to the board to ask for attendance.

Public Participation:

- Kevin O’Connor, reporter for VT Digger, attended to see what we do and how things are handled for an article on the committee. He asked a few questions regarding committee information and we directed him to the town’s website and committee links for additional information.

Move to Adjourn: Leesette Bengar moved to adjourn 18:07; Gary Stroud seconded. All approved.